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CONGRESSMAN
Elijah E. Cummings
Proudly Representing Maryland's 7th District



Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Representing You in the U.S. Congress

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Dear Friend,

It is both a privilege and an honor to represent you in the United States Congress. While serving you, I will continue my outreach efforts to inform you of my legislative actions. I welcome your advice. Government "by the people" is the cornerstone of my legislative philosophy.

To better serve you closer to home, I invite you to visit or contact any of my three district offices, conveniently located in Baltimore City, Catonsville, and Ellicott City.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

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Announcements

Baltimore Leadership Alliance for Quality Education (BLAQE) conference featuring producer/writer of HBO's "The Wire": On, Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Congressman Cummings will host this conference to discuss the state of Baltimore City schools. The event will be held at the Maryland Institute College of Art Brown Center, 1301 Mount Royal Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21217. Bishop Walter Scott Thomas of New Psalmist Baptist Church will co-host this conference. Featured panelists include Mr. Ed Burns, Writer/Producer of HBO's "The Wire" and nationally celebrated school reformer Paul Vallas, who currently serves as the Philadelphia School District CEO. At the event, members of the community will discuss ways to improve Baltimore City Schools. For further information, contact (410) 685-9199.

Business Opportunities with the InterCounty Connector: On Tuesday, October 17, 2006, Congressman Cummings will host a meeting to discuss business opportunities that will be available through the construction of the proposed InterCounty Connector (ICC) highway. The meeting will be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Coppin State University's New Dining Hall. At the meeting, officials with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration will speak about specific contracting opportunities and about the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, through which disadvantaged businesses are registered to compete for federally funded highway projects. The ICC is intended to be a limited access East-West link between I-270 and I-95 in Maryland.



Congressman Cummings meets with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Representing Maryland's 7th Congressional District in Washington

Cummings Raises Awareness on Prostate Cancer Testing

As part of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Congressman Cummings addressed the [Prostate Health Education Network](#) (PHEN) on Capitol Hill on Sept. 21. PHEN gathered in Washington to raise awareness and education about prostate cancer among African American men, who are at the highest risk for this type of cancer.

Prostate Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths for men. Statistics show that every 17 minutes, a life is lost to prostate cancer in this country. Currently, 2 million American men are living with prostate cancer.

At the summit, participants discussed how African American men suffer disproportionately from prostate cancer, with an incidence rate 60 percent higher than the rate for white males.

"This situation is nothing less than a public health crisis," Congressman Cummings said. "However, getting a prostate screening test has phenomenal life-saving results."

Medical experts and survivors note that if the disease is detected in its early stages, the chances of survival are close to 100 percent. However, if the cancer has already spread, the chances of survival decrease to 30 percent.

"Sadly, African American men often learn of cancer in later stages," Congressman Cummings said. "That is why I urge all the men who are at high risk for prostate cancer to get tested as

soon as possible."

In the Baltimore region, several health care facilities provide free testing for prostate cancer:
Men's Health Center, (410) 396-6367
St. Agnes Hospital, (410) 368-2918
Northwest Hospital, (410) 601-9355
Johns Hopkins Hospital, (410) 955-1348
Union Memorial Hospital, (866) 488-5864

In June, Congressman Cummings introduced House Resolution 863, a measure intended to bring collective attention to the need to develop better tools for men in the fight against prostate cancer. The resolution called for an increased focus on developing imaging technologies, which are more accurate and less invasive than current procedures. The technologies not only detect prostate cancer, but would also help physicians pinpoint the specific location of the cancer. "With this technology, more men would be able to get the help they need before the cancer becomes deadly."

Cummings Urges Action on Darfur

Congressman Cummings joined Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and several of their colleagues, in introducing the *Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006, H.R. 6140*. This bill would ban the government of the United States from doing business with firms that also maintain business connections in Sudan or elsewhere that are deemed to support the continuation of the genocide.

The conflict in Darfur has resulted in the death of more than 450,000 people and displaced approximately 2.5 million more. The United States has joined many members of the international community in declaring this conflict genocide. However, according to reports, the African Union force currently in Darfur has been unable to protect fleeing civilians, and the government of Sudan refuses to allow United Nation's peacekeepers to enter the country.



"It is urgent that the international community come together to take decisive action to save the lives of those in Darfur. So many times when genocides or ethnic cleansings have occurred in the past, the world has vowed never to let it happen again. Unfortunately, it is happening now, and the world is doing very little to stop these terrible killings. It is past time to transform our commitments into action," Congressman Cummings said.

In the absence of the deployment of needed peacekeepers, H.R. 6140 is an effort to ensure that firms reaping economic gain from commerce with those perpetuating this genocide cannot do business with the U.S. government. The bill would also require the government to produce a list of such companies whose business supports the genocide, so that their involvement can be made public.

Cummings Applauds CDC Recommendation on Universal HIV Testing

Congressman Cummings, who has been a leader in addressing HIV/AIDS issues, applauded the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for its recent recommendation that all individuals between the ages of 13 and 64 have HIV tests as part of routine medical care by both public and private healthcare providers.

According to the CDC, in 2004, the Baltimore-Towson Metropolitan area had the fifth highest AIDS case report rate of any major metropolitan area in the United States. Additionally, statistics from 2004 show that while Baltimore City accounts for only 12 percent of Maryland's

total population, close to 50 percent of the state's HIV and AIDS cases were from Baltimore. Within this Baltimore City caseload, African Americans accounted for 89 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS.

"The recommendation made by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding universal HIV testing is a critical preventive tool that if used properly, will make a tremendous impact in stabilizing the current pandemic while reducing the number of HIV/AIDS cases that currently affect more than one million Americans," Congressman Cummings said.

Experts believe that of these one million Americans, more than 250,000 people are not aware that they have the virus which causes AIDS. By applying a policy whereby medical facilities would test most patients without extensive paperwork, more people would become informed of their HIV/AIDS status. Experts point out that this testing policy would help reduce the number of patients who do not know they have HIV/AIDS by 60 percent.

"I applaud the healthcare providers in this country who have already embraced this medical strategy. For example, in my district, Johns Hopkins Hospital's emergency department began a policy to test every ER patient for HIV. However, mandatory paperwork and constraints upon the ER staff have made the full execution of this policy difficult."

The challenges to bring the CDC recommendation into full force can only be overcome by increased funding for HIV testing, Congressman Cummings noted. Earlier this year, the Bush Administration requested an additional \$88 million to enable the CDC to help health care facilities in the testing of high risk populations for HIV/AIDS. However, the current Labor-HHS Appropriations bill only provides \$54 million of this amount.

"I urge our Republican colleagues to fully fund this critical effort - so that our nation's health care providers can have the resources they need to test those individuals who have the greatest risk of contracting the disease.

On Sept. 28, Congressman Cummings joined 324 of his colleagues in passing the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, H.R. 6143*, which makes federal funds available to metropolitan areas and states to provide a number of health care services for AIDS patients, including medical care, drug treatments, dental care, home health care, and outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment.



Congressman Cummings receives the Guardian Award from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America for his work on substance abuse issues. Pictured with Congressman Cummings is Dr. Michael Maves, Board Member of the

Partnership.

Federal Grants and Contracts to the 7th Congressional District

Congressman Cummings helped secure the following grants to benefit the residents of the 7th Congressional District.

\$10,812,308 Marines Corps contract: This contract has been awarded to 180, LLC to produce 76,108 combat desert jackets for the U.S. Marines. Desert jackets are outer garments used to enhance the Marine Corps survivability in a high desert and a cold/dry environment.

\$9,592,328 contract for the Army: MPRI based in Columbia, MD has been given this contract to provide for a digital deployed training campus for the US Army National Guard.

\$5,900,000 for HIV/AIDS research: The University of Maryland, Baltimore, will receive funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to conduct research on global HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

\$3,700,000 NASA Grant: Morgan State University will receive these funds from the NASA Langley Research Center to help support the Chesapeake Information-Based Aeronautics Consortium. The Consortium, which consists of Morgan, Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, will use these funds for aviation safety research.

\$481,676 Medical Research Grant: Johns Hopkins University will receive this grant to study acid reflux therapy for children.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Washington D.C. Office

2235 Rayburn House Office Building | Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4741 | Fax: (202) 225-3178

Baltimore City Office

1010 Park Avenue

Suite 105

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (410) 685-9199

Fax: (410) 685-9399

Baltimore County Office

754 Frederick Road

Catonsville, MD 21228

Phone: (410) 719-8777

Fax: (410) 455-0110

Howard County Office

8267 Main Street, Room 102

Ellicott Mills Post Office

Ellicott City, MD 21043-8267

Phone: (410) 465-8259

Fax: (410) 465-8740

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